G. R. S. 58]

Previous references.

Police 68 of 95

191.

(P & J)

File No. 98 of 96

Serial Nos. 1–6

Later references.

P & J 99/96

13

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos. 1– 6

major **Part B for**

SUBJECT.

System of identification of criminals by means of finger impressions.

Sl, From The F. A. Resident.

No 2602 dated 18. 7. 96.

Forwards copy of letter from the Govt India regarding the System of identifying criminals by means of finger-impressions and requests to be informed whether the System can be adopted in Mysore.

GPB—3,600—21-7-14

Sl 2. To The I.G of Prisons.

No 1510/ J 153 dated 29.7.96

Forwards the above (Sl 1) and requests to favour Govt with his opinion as to the advisibility of adopting the System in Mysore.

To The I.G of Police No 1511/154 d 29.7.96

Sl 3 forwards copy of the above.

From The I.G of Prisons.

No 180 dated 21.8.96.

Recommends the adoption of the System in Mysore

Sl 4 ~~To~~ The J.A. Resident.

No 3693/ J 386 dated 16.9.96.

States that the Dmbar are in favour of introducing the system in Mysore and that the IGP Police and IG of Prisons are requested to take necessary steps to introduce the system.

Sl 5 To I.G. Prisons, IG of Police, To Dy cms of Dists.

Forwards copy of the above (Sl 4) with a request that they will arrange for the practical application of the System in Mysore.

Sl 6. To The J.A.R. No 5837/ J 678 d 21.11.96.

States that the Police and Jail officers received instructions from Mr Meredith and that the Dmbar appreciation of his services may be communicated to the Govt of Madras.

Indexed: N Pallabhiramiah

quick 20-7-96

195

SECTION P & T 1896

FILE NO. 9807/96

SERIAL NO. From The Govt Asstt Resl

P.60

EWANC

To Dewan

The ~~Secretary to the Govt.~~ of Mysore,

_____ *Dept.*

Dated 18.7.96.

Despatched

Received 20-7-96

General No. 2602

No.

Enclosure No. 1

~~Forwarding~~ copy of a letter from the Govt of India in the Home Deptt regarding the system of identifying persons by means of impressions of the tips of their fingers and requesting to be informed whether this system can be adopted in Mysore.

References to be marked.

Submitted with Govt reference

Govt 21/7

27

Ref pt 17/16 9/Feb

No. 2602 East (39)

FROM

THE FIRST ASSISTANT TO THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE.

To

The Dewan of Mysore.

Dated Bangalore, 18th July 1896

SIR,

89 of 98 Pt 66 of 95

I am directed to forward for the information of the Dewan, a Copy of a letter No. 12 Public 854-62 of the 8th May last from the Government of India in the Home Department, regarding the system of identifying persons by means of impressions of the tips of their fingers.

2. If this system be adopted in the Mysore State, I am to request that the fact may be kindly communicated to this office.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

K. S. Erskine Captain
First Assistant Resident.

* Please see Ses. file No 30. Vol. 21/7.

ho 3925

N. 1510 / 8153 Dj 29-7-96

SECTION 187

FILE No. 1801 Letters to the

SER'AL No. Insp. Genl of Prisons in Ireland

3rd 40

Sir,

Adverting to correspondence ending with your letter No. 57/5 of 10 Dec. 1895 I am directed to forward herewith a (to be kindly returned) copy of letter No. 12 Public 854-62 of 8 May 1896 with its enclosure from the Govt of India, Home Dept, regarding the system of identifying persons by means of impressions of the tips of their fingers, & to request that the Govt will be obliged if the Insp. Genl of Prisons will, in consultation with the Insp. Genl of Police in Ireland be good enough to favor Govt with his opinion as

ref Police 68 of 95.

4
as to the advisibility
of adopting the system
in this Province

I have &c

24-7-96

W 24/7 Secretary.

Copy of this letter to
the Insp! Genl of Police
in Ireland.

P. C.

Secretary.

111

No 1511 of 29-7-9
1514

Draft & encls

W/ Sealed Packet
24-7-96

Please attend
27/7/96.

24/7/96

ask Genl of Police
(separately) what
what has been done
pursuant to his letter
of 4th Aug/96, whether
the men of the 3 Depts
have been sent to Marlborough
Barracks & when &
why not 3772 24/7/96

Recd & dated 27/7

A06249

43

SECTION— I & J

(General Serial No. 30).

FILE No.— 9806/96 From

SER'AL No.— 3

1896. 1809

2258

The Registrar to the
Inspector General of
Prisons in Mysore.

To

The ~~Chief~~ Secretary
to the ~~Dewan~~ Govt of Mysore.

Dated 21st August 1896.

Despatched

Received 25—8—96

Enclosures No.

General No. 180
J.

Recommends the adoption in the Mysore State the system of identifying persons by means of impressions of the tips of their fingers.

J 25/8/96

Submitted for reference
26/8.

Submd. Obsn.

Central Jail Press, Bangalore.—26-4-94.—500.

(436)

GOVERNMENT OF MYSORE

No. 180 J.

Bangalore 21st August 1896

From

The Registrar to the
Inspector General of Prisons
in Mysore.

To

The Secretary to the
Government of Mysore.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 1310 dated 29th July, I am directed to state that the Inspector General of Prisons recommends the adoption in the Mysore State of the system of identifying persons by means of impressions of the tips of their fingures, and that the Inspector General of Police, who has been consulted on the subject, is also in favor of the system being introduced into this Province.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Most obdt Servant.

Registrar.

ZRI

SECTION P&T

FILE No. No. 3693 8 16-9-96

SERIAL No. 386

7 451

The 1st Assistant to the Resident in Mysore

Sir,

With reference to para 2 of your letter No 2602 dated 18th July last, I am directed to state that the Durbar are in favor of adopting the system of identifying persons by means of impressions of the tips of their fingers and that the I.G.P. of Prisons and of Police have been instructed to take the necessary

steps to introduce
the system into
Smyrne.

2 Drafts.

I have &c.

15-9-96.

Secretary.

SECTION (A7) 4227-36 & 448 of 25-8-96

FILE

SERIAL No. 5

Letter no 2602 of the 18th July 1896 from the Asst Resident to the Resident forwarding copy of a letter from the G. of I. regarding the system of identifying persons by means of impressions of the tips of their fingers.

Letter No 180 of the 21 August 1896. from the Resident to the D.G of Prisons to the Govt of India

Letter do. 3693 & 386 of 16/9/96 from the Govt to the Govt of India to the First Assistant to the Resident.

Order.

Ordered that the Copies of the above correspondence be forwarded to the Inspectors General of Police and of Prisons & that they will be requested to take

~~Submit for the orders of Govt a scheme~~ Arrange for the practical application in Mysore of the system in question along with the anthropometric system for the identification of criminals.

the necessary steps to introduce the system into Mysore submitting a report to Govt of the action taken by them.

Govt Orders

15-9-96.

To

The I. G. of Police

" Registrar to the

D.G of Prisons

" Dy Commr of Dhs

47

Proceedings of the Government of Mysore,

READ :—

Letter No. 2602 of the 18th July 1896, from the First Assistant to the Resident to the Dewan of Mysore.

Adverting to the correspondence ending with my letter No. 4782, dated the 2nd December 1895, I am directed to forward for the information of the Durbar, a copy of a letter No. 12, Public—854-62 of the 8th May last, from the Government of India in the Home Department, regarding the system of identifying persons by means of impressions of the tips of their fingers.

2. If this system be adopted in the Mysore State, I am to request that the fact may be kindly communicated to this office.

No. 12 Public—854-62.

FROM

J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C. I. E.,
Secretary to the Government of India.

To

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS.

Home Department.
Public.

Simla, the 8th May 1896.

SIR,

The system of identifying persons by means of impressions of the tips of their fingers has been successfully employed for several years in the Registration Department in Bengal, and has been incorporated with the anthropometric system adopted in that Province for the identification of criminals. Recently it has been represented to the Government of India, that the use of finger-prints for the purpose of identification is capable of being extended in various directions with great benefit to the public service. The Government of India have accordingly caused a Note, describing the system in outline, to be drawn up, a copy of which is forwarded herewith for . Particulars as to the sources of more complete information can be obtained if desired from this office; but the Government of India apprehend that Local Governments will have no difficulty in obtaining for themselves more detailed information if they wish to make enquiry on the subject. At present the Governor General in Council only desires to bring the uses of the system prominently before will judge as to the advisability of adopting it for any public purpose in . If it is adopted, I am to ask that the Government of India may be informed of the fact and also may be acquainted, after intervals of not more than a year, with the progress made in working the system and the degree of usefulness ascribed to it.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
J. P. HEWETT,
Secretary to the Government of India.

No.

Copy, with copy of enclosure, forwarded to all Departments of the Government of India and to the Government of Bengal, for information.

No.

Copy, with copy of enclosure, forwarded to the Director-General of the Indian Medical Service for information, with reference to his No. 3760—3.-A, dated 19th September 1895.

No.

Copy, with copy of enclosure, forwarded to the Superintendent of Port Blair, Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, Secretary to the Board of Examiners, Registrar of the Calcutta University, Bishop's Chaplain and Registrar* of the High Court, Calcutta, for information.

* To be done by usual printed letter.

By Order,
L. M. THORNTON,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

System of identification by finger-prints.

Every one bears on his body a visible token of identity in the system of ramification of the minute ridges that run across the palms of the hands and the soles of the feet, and more especially in the scrolls or other patterns that the ridges form on the inner surfaces of the bulbs of the fingers. These latter are believed to be in themselves amply sufficient for purposes of identification. The value of finger-prints as a means of identification is thus testified to by the Committee which was appointed by the Secretary of State of the Home Department in London to enquire into the best means available for identifying habitual criminals :—"The finger-prints will afford in most cases the scientific proof of identity, and wherever the system is applied, will render a wrong identification practically impossible."

Mr. Francis Galton, who gave evidence before the Committee, has established the following facts in connection with the subject. The marks are persistent through life. There is an enormous variety of them in different individuals, and although there is some deterioration on account of age, the pattern can still be made out. Even after burns the original marks reappear as before. In cases of severe cuts or ulcers there may be distortion, but short of very serious injury the marks would not be destroyed. The improbability of the prints being the same in two sets of two or three fingers is so enormous that it can hardly be put into figures. The prints therefore form a signature which cannot be imitated.

2. The following is a rough outline of the method in which it has been proposed by Mr. Galton to make use of this means of identification. The minute ridges covering the bulbs of the fingers (which are really slight elevations of the skin containing at intervals small holes or pores) would run straight across the fingers from side to side up to the very tip—just as they do in the lower part of the finger—but for the nail, which disturbs their parallelism and squeezes them downwards at either side of the finger. Consequently the ridges that run close to the tip are greatly arched; those that successively follow are gradually less so, until in some cases the arch insensibly disappears about the level of the joint. Usually, however, the gradual transition from an arch to a straight line fails to be carried out, and there is a break in the sequence and a consequent interspace. The uppermost boundary of the interspace is formed by the lowermost arch and the lowermost boundary by the uppermost straight ridge. As the usual number of holes or pores exist within the interspace, the ridges containing them form an independent scroll-work which has been termed the pattern by Mr. Galton. These patterns, almost without exception, can be classified as belonging to three main shapes or designs, to which respectively Mr. Galton has applied the names of Primaries (lines arched, whether upwards or downwards, across the finger), Whorls and Loops.

3. The identification consists in tracing (by the aid of a magnifying glass) the same lines or ridges, and the same peculiarities in them, in impressions made by the same finger at whatever distance of years. The length and thickness of the lines will vary with age and differing conditions of body, but this does not prevent the impression of the finger from being recognized with certainty. The classification of individuals, which is necessary for purposes of record and reference, is arranged for by Mr. Galton in the following manner. Taking the three varieties of patterns abovementioned, and sub-dividing each into two according as the slope of the lines is upwards or downwards from the side, he has six possible varieties of fingers, to which severally are assigned the numbers 1 to 6. The numerical sign for each individual is the numbers thus borne by his fingers in a fixed order (Mr. Galton thinks it might suffice, for the identification of criminals, to take six fingers only). A number of classes of manageable size result, which can be sub-divided by adding further particulars, till the search for prints corresponding with those sought to be compared becomes a matter of no great difficulty.

4. For the purpose of identifying any one with a person who he claims or is supposed to be, no classification is required but merely comparison of two prints taken from the fingers at two different periods to see whether they agree. It seems to be established that, if they do not agree, even after the lapse of many years they cannot have been made by the same individual. In cases of classifying a large number of persons, or of identifying criminals, the services of an expert would be required, but in ordinary cases the two sets of prints would be enlarged by photography or be examined by a magnifying glass, and there would be no difficulty in discovering whether they had been made by the same or by two different hands.

5. As regards the mode of taking finger-prints, the recommendations of the Home Secretary's Committee are briefly as follows :—

(1) A plate of copper screwed by its corners down at both ends to a board one inch thick, an ordinary printer's roller, two tubes of printer's ink, some benzole and cards should be provided.

(2) Less than a drop of ink should be squeezed on the plate and worked with the roller till it forms an even layer on the surface, which must be so thin as to allow the copper color to show through it.

(3) The man's right hand should then be taken and the bulbs of the fingers laid on the inked plate and pressed gently but firmly with the operator's own hand. The inked fingers should then be placed flat on the card, so that imprints may be taken

(4) The roller and slab must be thoroughly cleaned with benzole and dried with a rag and put out of the way of dust. The fingers may also be readily cleaned with benzole or turpentine.

Judicial, dated 25th September 1896.

A piece of glass will do as well as the copper. The ordinary native ink, diluted with a little oil, may do. Experience has shown that imprints can be made with sufficient distinctness by non-expert persons using such ink. If the prints are taken on a small piece of white paper, the operation can be repeated several times, or until a perfect specimen is obtained, and this can be gummed on to any document with which it is desired to preserve the print.

6. The system of identification by finger-prints appears to be capable of utilization in various ways in the Civil Department. It has already been incorporated with the anthropometric system introduced into Bengal by Mr. Henry, Inspector General of Police, and has been successfully employed in the identification of criminals. It may eventually, if Mr. F. Galton's views are correct, be possible to identify persons by finger-prints alone. For the present, however, for the identification of criminals, this method has to be associated with anthropometry, and only helps to make identification under that system absolutely certain.

The system of finger-prints has also been introduced in the Registration Department in Bengal for securing the identification of parties and their witnesses in the registration of deeds. It was brought into operation in all Sadr Registration offices from the 1st June 1894, and has since been introduced into the subordinate offices. It has already helped in the detection of two cases of false personation.

The system is likely to prove an important safeguard in preventing false personation in the case of pensioners, especially females. Applicants for payment of pension might be compelled in case of doubt as to their identity, to produce fresh impressions of their fingers for comparison with their standard prints which would be kept in the pension offices. This evidence would be specially valuable in the case of *Purdanashin* women, whose impressions could be obtained through their relatives or friends. The Government of India propose to introduce this system into Lower Bengal, as an experimental measure at present, for the purpose of identifying Government pensioners.

The system might be useful in identifying the next-of kin, if Government servants were required to have affixed to their service-books the finger-prints of those who were recognised as their heirs. It might also be usefully employed for the identification of competitors at public examinations. It has further been suggested that impressions may be taken of the finger-tips of all candidates for the public service; and that they may be attached to all legal documents in the courts. Emigrants might also be required to leave their finger-prints as a token of their identity. And if the method proves an effective means of identification, it is probable that it could be put to various other uses.

7. The system of taking impressions of finger-tips was adopted in 1893 in recruiting for the Native Army, but it was considered unnecessary and abandoned last year, false personation being almost unknown in the army. The Home authorities are, it is believed, about to introduce anthropometry combined with finger-prints for recruiting purposes, and there is little doubt that this will prove of the greatest use in detecting the re-enlistment of deserters. In the Recruiting Department the system may also be adopted as a check against false personation by persons who claim to be the persons passed by the medical authority.

Letter No. 180 of the 21st August 1896, from the Registrar to the Inspector General of Prisons to the Secretary to the Government of Mysore.

With reference to your letter No. 1510—J. 153, dated 29th July, I am directed to state that the Inspector General of Prisons recommends the adoption in the Mysore State of the system of identifying persons by means of impressions of the tips of their fingers, and that the Inspector General of Police, who has been consulted on the subject, is also in favor of the system being introduced into this Province.

Letter No. 3693—J. 386, dated 16th September 1896, from the Secretary to the Government of Mysore to the First Assistant to the Resident.

With reference to para 2 of your letter No. 2602, dated 18th July last, I am directed to state that the Durbar are in favor of adopting the system of identifying persons by means of impressions of the tips of their fingers and that the Inspectors General of Prisons and of Police have been instructed to take the necessary steps to introduce the system into Mysore.

No. 4227-36—J. 448, DATED, BANGALORE, 25TH SEPTEMBER 1896.

ORDER THEREON.—Copies of the above correspondence will be forwarded to the Inspectors General of Police and of Prisons with a request that they will, in consultation with each other, arrange for the practical application in Mysore of the system in question along with the anthropometric system for the identification of criminals.

C. SREENIVASIENGAR,
Secy. to Govt., Gen. & Rev. Depts.

To—The Inspector General of Police in Mysore.
The Registrar to the Inspector General of Prisons in Mysore.
The Deputy Commissioners of districts.

Exd.—H.A.R.

1892

GOVERNMENT OF MYSORE.

JUDICIAL

PROCEEDINGS.

Dated 25th September 1892.

No. $\frac{4227\text{-}36}{J.448}$

Forwarding copies of correspondence, relating to the system of identifying persons by means of impressions of the tips of their fingers, to the Inspectors General of Police and of Prisons with a request that needful steps be taken for the introduction of same into the province.

M.G.C.P.B.—23-11-96—120

No 6981

No. 5837 / 3678 21-11-96.

SECTION P&J

To

FILE No. 3896

The 1st Asst. to the

SERIAL No. 0

Resident in Mysore.

Sir,

With reference to the correspondence ending with this office No 3693 / 3386 of 16-9-96 regarding the introduction into Mysore of the Bertillon System of Anthropometry and of the Finger-print system, I am directed to state that the Police Jail Officers ~~and Asts men~~ deputed ~~to undergo a course a training~~ in them were sent to Madras where they were instructed by Mr. Meredith, the Asst. Inspector General, in taking Anthropometric measurements and finger-print impressions.

Mr. Meredith while he

by the Darbar for the purpose, received instruction there at Madras from Mr. Meredith, the Asst ~~Ins~~ Inspector-General, ~~Madras~~, who was also good enough, during his recent visit to Bangalore, to devote his leisure to the instruction of the Officer Asst to the Inspector-General, Mysore, in the details of the system. And I am ~~further~~ to request that the appreciation of the Darbar for the services ~~thus~~ thereby rendered by him in acquainting the officer may be conveyed to him thro' the Govt of Madras.

Subjoined

19/11/96

19/11/96

13

Bnd. mg. inv. etc.

Mr. Bile connected with
with the fair copyist wh.
making press copies.

CR
2/11

he was here last month
was kindly pleased to
devote his leisure in
instructing the Asst. to the
Supt. Genl. of Police in Mysore
in the details of the Bureau
system and about in-
augerating Anthropometry

I am therefore
further directed to request
the favor of your moving
the Resident to convey to
the Madras Govt. the thanks
of the Durbar and its ap-
preciation of the valuable
services rendered by Mr.
Meredith in helping the
Mysore Police to inaugurate
Anthropometry & finger-
print classifications.

I have

Secretary.

Copy to the Supt. Genl. of
Police in Mysore, with ref. to his No. 1401/175
dated 6. Nov. 1896
B. O.